

1 ***Regular Minutes for February 23, 2005***

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3 *A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonia, Bergen County,*
4 *New Jersey, was held this evening in the Borough Hall Annex, commencing at 7:30pm*
5

6 ***Council Present:*** *Mayor Laurence Cherchi, Councilwoman Dwarica,*
7 *Councilwoman Heveran, Councilwoman Mitrani, Councilman*
8 *Puzzo, Councilman Ryan,*
9

10 ***Council Absent:*** *none*
11

12 ***Also Present:*** *Fran Lehmann, Borough Clerk, David Russo, Borough Attorney,*
13 *Victoria Miragliotta, Borough Administrator*
14

15 Mayor Laurence Cherchi called the meeting to order.
16

17 Mayor Laurence Cherchi asked everyone to stand while Councilman Puzzo led in the
18 Pledge of Allegiance.
19

20 **OPEN MEETING STATEMENT**
21

22 Conditions of the Open Meeting Act have been met by Notice placed on the Bulletin
23 Board at Borough Hall and notices sent to the Official Newspaper.
24

25 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
26

26 Held until the next meeting.

27 Closed Session Minutes February 23, 2005; A motion was made by Councilwoman
28 Dwarica seconded by Councilman Ryan to adopt the Closed Session Minutes. All in
29 favor, none opposed. Minutes adopted.
30
31

32 **PRESENTATION**
33

34 Mayor Cherchi expressed the Council's gratitude to the Fire Department in keeping the
35 Community safe and sound.
36

37 **Steven Oxnard, Leonia Fire Chief** – 392 Grand Avenue
38

39 **Ron Chace**, 120 Leonia Avenue –
40

41 **Barney Dunn, Deputy Chief** 205, Fairview Avenue, Bogota

42 Read a letter to the Mayor and Council, which has been attached to the minutes. Deputy
43 Chief Dunn read a statement from Mr. Bill Peters, who was hired by the Council to
44 evaluate the ladder truck that was purchased in 2000. Mr. Peters cited NFPA Standards
45 that advises "that no fire equipment should be relied beyond 25 years." Mayor Cherchi
46 said that the Capital Budget Committee will take a seriously look at this particular piece

47 of apparatus this year. The Committee will review the request. Mayor Cherchi stated that
48 he wanted to see the rescue truck and he invited the Capital Budget Committee. It was his
49 desire to see the truck and he and Mr. Neugebauer went to see the truck. Mr. Ryan said
50 he has seen the truck, and when this goes before the Capital Budget Committee, which it
51 will, they will consider it. Mr. Chace advised the Council that neighboring communities
52 have purchased similar vehicles at a higher cost. Mayor Cherchi stated that when the fire
53 department requested the ladder truck the fire department submitted an extensive
54 proposal. The Capital Budget Committee is going to meet next week. They may not have
55 allotted time for the truck but it will be considered by the Committee. Mr. Ryan said he
56 felt that the time could be allotted by the Committee to meet with the fire department.
57 Councilman Puzzo asked how often the rescue truck is used; does it go to every call?
58 Deputy Chief Dunn responded that this truck is the only truck that goes to every call.
59 Councilwoman Dwarica asked if this was the first responder? Deputy Chief Dunn stated
60 that this is not the first responder. This truck responds to every call whether it is a brush
61 fire or a motor vehicle accident. This vehicle leaves the building for every call. Mr.
62 Chace said it was, "tool box on wheels." Mayor Cherchi explained about the bonding
63 process. Councilman Puzzo asked about the process of building the truck. Deputy Chief
64 Dunn asked what happens if the Capital Budget Committee turns down the request?
65 Mayor Cherchi stated they can comeback before the Council. Councilwoman Heveran
66 asked about safety requirements. Mr. Chace stated that this was on the list from OSHA as
67 there were no seatbelts.

68
69 Municipal Committee – Mayor Cherchi referred to a letter received from the Municipal
70 Committee regarding the vacancy left by Mr. Trachtenberg's resignation. Mayor Cherchi
71 asked Mr. Hawkins if he could ask him a few questions. Councilwoman Heveran felt that
72 this was inappropriate. Mayor Cherchi asked Mr. Hawkins if he was present at the
73 meeting? Mr. Hawkins stated he was. Mayor Cherchi asked him how many were present
74 at the meeting? Mr. Hawkins stated that everyone was at the meeting.
75 Mayor Cherchi asked the Borough Attorney to lay out the ground rules for filling the
76 position.

77
78 Mr. Russo explained the process.

79 80 APPOINTMENTS

81
82 Mayor Cherchi appointed members of the Website Committee. A motion was made by
83 Councilwoman Dwarica to approve the appointments of the Website Committee
84 seconded by Councilman Puzzo. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.

85
86 Mayor Cherchi asked for a motion to appoint Councilman Ryan as Council President to
87 fill the vacancy left by Mr. Trachtenberg. A motion was made by Councilwoman
88 Dwarica seconded by Councilwoman Mitrani. Councilwoman Heveran asked if this was
89 proper to do until the new Council Person is appointed. Borough Attorney Russo
90 explained that he felt it was fine to make the appointment at this time.

92 Roll call vote; Councilperson Dwarica, Mitrani and Ryan voted yes. Councilpersons
93 Heveran and Puzzo voted no.
94 Councilwoman Heveran stated that initially she had hoped to be considered for Council
95 President but the majority had voted for Mr. Trachtenberg. Now as one of the senior
96 members of the Council “I ask for your support again.”
97 Councilman Ryan was appointed to the Police Commission. Mayor Cherchi asked for a
98 nomination from the Police Commission for a Chairperson. The members of the
99 commission preferred to wait until they met to elect a chairperson.

100
101 Councilman Puzzo was appointed as Council Liaison to the Recreation Commission.

102 **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

103
104
105 **Finance Committee** – Councilwoman Mitrani stated everything is on schedule.

106
107 **Laws & Ordinances** – Councilman Puzzo, nothing to report.

108
109 **Police Commission** – Councilman Puzzo has a few items for closed session.

110
111 **Fire Department** – Councilwoman Heveran reported that there have been 22 calls. They
112 included two structure fires in neighboring towns. The ladder truck passed testing
113 requirements of NFPA and OSHA. The Fire Department is now going to be using a new
114 application very similar to the Police Department. Background checks and finger printing
115 will be done. Councilwoman Heveran stated she attended graduation of Gregg Goldman
116 who completed Fire Fighter 1. Mayor Cherchi asked how many fire fighters are currently
117 in the fire department? Councilwoman Heveran stated 60 members. That includes three
118 juniors, who will become full members at age 18; those trained fire fighter one, fire
119 fighter two and three. Councilwoman Dwarica asked if they were all active members?
120 Councilwoman Heveran explained that this included all members whether they are active
121 or not. Some respond to all the calls and not all members are needed to respond to all
122 fires. Councilwoman Mitrani asked how do they decide who is called for a fire.
123 Councilwoman Heveran explained they are contacted through their pagers and the early
124 warning system.

125
126 **Ambulance** – Councilwoman Dwarica stated there were 69 calls this month.
127 Councilwoman Dwarica read off who made how many calls for the month. There was a
128 problem with heat at the ambulance corps building; the unit is over 30 years old.

129
130 **DPW** – Councilman Ryan reported that there is progress in all areas. He will let the
131 Borough Administrator report on various projects.

132
133 **Borough Administrator** – Borough Administrator reported that we have been awarded a
134 grant for \$100,000 for Beechwood Place from Community Development. Department of
135 Community Affairs called today and they are considering our grant for shared services
136 for telecommunications equipment. Station Parkway bids will be opened on March 7th.
137 Sylvan Park bids need to be rejected because they are 20% higher than we anticipated.

Update on the cell tower they will not be moving or adjusting the early warning system in any way. Borough Administrator met with the fire department and they have a list of questions, which will be submitted to the attorney. There will be a major bio-terrorism drill at the High School on April 7th at three pm if anyone is interested. Contact the Borough Hall and we will take your name. Background checks will be done. Borough Administrator gave an update on finances. It included \$38,000 in savings; \$28,000 in annual savings due to Borough Administrator review. The tax collection rate is up and surplus has increased \$242,000 for the year/

Councilwoman Heveran asked if the Council would be getting anything in writing about the cell tower, antenna request. Borough Administrator said the main concern of the fire department was radio frequencies. Everyone will be copied on the letter.

Special Bodies – Nothing to report

Mayor – Mayor Cherchi reported that he attended a meeting hosted by Assemblyman Gordon Johnson regarding the restoration of light rail service. Assemblyman Johnson is proposing a special property tax that is generated by businesses within certain distance of the rail line to fund rail service, similar to Urban Enterprise Zones.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Louis Luglio, 160 Hillcrest Avenue – Gave an overview of the proposal for the traffic study to be done by Lakeview Avenue.

Mr. Gill Hawkins, 123 Knapp Terrace - Suggested making Lakeview a non-through street 8-10am and 4-7pm. Mr. Hawkins also reported that there are three bald eagles in the Overpeck Park, as well as coyotes, red foxes, pheasants and deer.

Verdin Clock Presentation – Jeff Lewis made a presentation to those assembled regarding a clock on the triangle. The Council agreed to purchase the clock with a four sided face and lion heads.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Councilman Puzzo, seconded by Councilwoman Dwarica to approve Resolutions 05-66 through 05-73 and Resolution 05-75. Resolution 05-74 was held to the meeting of March 7, 2005. Roll call vote – Councilpersons Dwarica, Mitrani, Heveran, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes. Resolutions adopted.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Introduction of Bond Ordinance 06-05 entitled:

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS TO SYLVAN PARK IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF LEONIA, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO

184 **APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$70,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO**
185 **MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO**
186 **FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE THE ISSUANCE OF**
187 **BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF**
188 **SUCH BONDS.**

189
190 Borough Clerk read the Ordinance by Title
191 Mayor Cherchi gave an overview of the Ordinance
192

193 A motion was made by Councilwoman Dwarica, seconded by Councilman Puzzo to
194 adopt on first reading Bond Ordinance 06-05. Roll call vote; Councilperson Dwarica,
195 Heveran, Mitrani, Ryan, Puzzo voted yes. Ordinance 06-05 introduced.
196

197 Introduction of Ordinance 07-05 entitled:
198 **ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 123, SECTION**
199 **32, OF THE LEONIA CODE, ENTITLED “FEES”**
200

201 Borough Clerk read the Ordinance by Title
202 Mayor Cherchi gave an overview of the Ordinance
203
204

205 A motion was made by Councilman Puzzo, seconded by Councilwoman Dwarica to
206 adopt on first reading Ordinance 07-05. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Dwarica, Heveran,
207 Mitrani, Ryan, Puzzo voted yes. Ordinance 07-05 introduced.
208

209 **ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE**
210

211 Adoption of Bond Ordinance 05-05 entitled:
212 **BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF VARIOUS**
213 **IMPROVEMENTS TO SYLVAN PARK IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF**
214 **LEONIA, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO**
215 **APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$132,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF TO**
216 **MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO**
217 **FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND OT PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE**
218 **OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF**
219 **SUCH BONDS.**
220

221 Borough Clerk read the Ordinance by Title
222 Mayor Cherchi gave an overview of the Ordinance
223

224 Public Hearing on Ordinance 05-05; no one from the public spoke.
225

226 A motion was made by Councilman Puzzo, seconded by Councilwoman Dwarica to
227 adopt on final reading Ordinance 05-05. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Dwarica,
228 Heveran, Mitrani, Ryan, Puzzo voted yes. Ordinance 05-05 adopted.
229

230
231 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
232

233 Reverse E-Mail Police Department - Councilwoman Mitrani gave an overview of the
234 program. A motion was made by Councilwoman Mitrani to adopt the Reverse E-mail
235 program by the Leonia Police Department and that a notice is placed in the Leonia
236 Newsletter, seconded by Councilwoman Dwarica. All in favor; none opposed. Motion
237 carries.
238

239 Articles in the Newspaper – Councilwoman Mitrani asked residents in town if anyone
240 would volunteer to put articles in the paper and feels that we should get information into
241 the paper. Mayor Cherchi thought that we should focus more on the website once it is
242 there and we can tell the papers to take it from the website. Mayor Cherchi thought that
243 maybe the website committee could handle this. The Borough Administrator said writing
244 the press releases are not the problem; the problem is we have a small staff and not
245 enough time to do it. Councilman Puzzo felt that we should start small. There are
246 activities happening on a weekly basis. If you check The Record you never see anything
247 from Leonia. There are things at the Recreation Center, the Civil War Drill Hall, the
248 Senior Citizens, they should be sent to the Record, for the Community Section.
249 Councilwoman Dwarica volunteered to look into getting the information into the paper.
250

251 **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**
252

253 Tom Toronto, Planning Board Chair – 172 Sylvan Avenue Mr. Toronto have a proposal
254 from Burgis to go forward with Mr. Regan to prepare ordinances. The amount needed is
255 about \$4,000. The Borough Administrator stated the money is available from the Smart
256 Growth Grant. The Planning Board would like to add a fee for new business applications.
257 A number of businesses are in the process of turning over. Mr. Toronto outlined some of
258 the changes that will be implemented.
259

260 **CLOSED SESSION (RESOLUTION D)**
261

262 A motion was made to go into closed session by Councilwoman Dwarica seconded by
263 Councilman Puzzo. All in favor; none opposed.
264

265 A motion was made to come out of closed session by Councilwoman Dwarica seconded
266 by Councilman Puzzo. All in favor; none opposed
267

268 Resolution 05-76

269 A motion was made by Councilwoman Dwarica seconded by Councilwoman Mitrani to
270 approve Resolution 05-76 to give a salary increase as follows:

271	Victoria Miragliotta	\$5,000
272	Chief Ziegler	\$2,000
273	Tony Saitta	\$1,000

275 A motion was made by Councilman Puzzo seconded by Councilwoman Dwarica to
276 adjourn the meeting.
277
278 As there was no further business before the Governing Body, the meeting was adjourned
279 at 10:12pm
280
281 Respectfully submitted,
282
283
284 Fran Lehmann
285 Borough Clerk